

Explore Tarpon Springs

Thursday, June 25, 2026

TRAVEL GUIDE: Susan Conaty
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ITINERARY:

- **8:00 AM** – Depart Citrus Hills
Motorcoach transportation provided.
- **9:30 AM** – Arrive in Tarpon Springs
Time for check-in and boarding at Odyssey Cruises.
- **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** – Dolphin & Shelling Cruise
Enjoy a narrated cruise along the Anclote River with opportunities to spot bottlenose dolphins, stop to collect shells, and take in coastal scenery.
- **12:00 PM – 3:00 PM** – Lunch and Free Time at the Sponge Docks
Stroll, shop, eat lunch, grab a pastry or coffee, and explore at your own pace.
- **3:15 PM** – Depart Tarpon Springs
- **4:45 PM (Approx.)** – Return to Citrus Hills



IMPORTANT TIPS & INFORMATION

MOBILITY: Please note that this excursion is best suited for guests who are comfortable with extended periods of walking and uneven surfaces. The day includes:

- Boarding and disembarking a boat
- Stepping on and off onto sandy shoreline at Anclote Key
- Walking on sand and potentially in shallow water during the shelling stop
- Dock and boardwalk-style walking surfaces
- Extended time on your feet while shopping/exploring the Sponge Docks

The combination of sand, boat movement, walking, and June heat may be challenging for those with limited mobility or balance concerns. Guests who prefer minimal walking or who experience difficulty on uneven terrain may wish to carefully consider whether this particular trip will be comfortable. If you use a cane, walker, or wheelchair — or have any mobility concerns — we strongly encourage you to contact us prior to registering so we can review the logistics together. Your comfort and safety are very important to us, and we want every excursion to be an enjoyable experience.

CRUISE DETAILS – WHAT TO EXPECT: The Dolphin & Shelling Cruise with Odyssey Cruises is a narrated, two-hour eco-experience designed to be both relaxing and educational. Public restrooms are located next door to the dock prior to boarding. A restroom is also available onboard the vessel.

Boat Accessibility & Features:

- Dock and beach ramps with double handrails
- Ramp lays flat onto the deck for smoother boarding
- Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the seating area is shaded
- Open-air bow (front of boat) for panoramic views
- Clear protective siding (eisenglass) for visibility while shielding from wind or light spray

Tour Highlights:

- Narrated by a certified University of Florida Naturalist
- The only Tarpon Springs cruise to win the 2025 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award
- 4.8-star rating on both TripAdvisor and Google
- Frequent sightings of wild bottlenose dolphins
- Stop at Anclote Key for shelling and shoreline exploration

Guests should expect a smooth, leisurely cruise along the Anclote River and surrounding coastal waters. While dolphin sightings are common, they are wild animals and cannot be guaranteed. The shelling stop includes stepping onto a sandy shoreline.

WHAT TO WEAR: We recommend dressing comfortably for a warm Florida day with time on the water and on the beach. Suggested attire includes:

- Lightweight, breathable clothing
- Comfortable walking shoes for boarding and strolling
- Sand-friendly footwear (water shoes, secure sandals, or shoes you don't mind getting wet)
- A hat or visor for sun protection
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- A light layer (it can feel breezy on the water)

Since we will be stepping onto the sandy shoreline at Anclote Key for shelling, you may wish to wear footwear that can handle sand and possibly shallow water. Some guests prefer to bring a small towel or plastic bag for sandy shoes afterward. You may also want to bring:

- A reusable water bottle
- A small crossbody bag or tote for shopping
- A small bag or mesh pouch if you plan to collect shells

WEATHER ADVISORY: June in coastal Florida typically brings warm temperatures, high humidity, and strong sun exposure. Afternoon showers and brief thunderstorms are also common this time of year. ***The dolphin cruise and shelling portion of this excursion take place outdoors and are weather-dependent.*** Marine conditions such as wind, lightning, or rough water may impact the cruise schedule or island stop.

In the event of unsafe boating conditions, decisions regarding delays or cancellations will be made by the cruise operator for the safety of all guests. Should any adjustments be necessary, your Tour Guide will communicate updates as promptly as possible.

Please plan accordingly for heat, sun, and the possibility of brief rain showers. Staying hydrated and dressing appropriately will help ensure a comfortable experience. As always, guest safety is our top priority.

RECOMMENDED LUNCH SPOTS: Tarpon Springs offers a wonderful mix of fresh seafood and authentic Greek cuisine. Here are a few personal suggestions to help you decide:

Rusty Bellies Waterfront Grill

A personal favorite of mine (Emily – Activities Director) located at the end of Dodecanese Blvd, along the water. I've eaten here many times over the years — including anniversary dinners — and they consistently deliver excellent seafood in a beautiful waterfront setting. If you're looking for fresh Gulf fish such as grouper, or a classic Florida coastal meal, this is a fantastic choice.

Mykonos

An excellent option for authentic Greek cuisine right in the heart of the Sponge Docks. Traditional dishes, generous portions, and a lively atmosphere.

Hellas Restaurant & Bakery

Equally wonderful for Greek cuisine, and a longtime dockside favorite. Their attached bakery is *outstanding* — perfect if you'd like to take home pastries, baklava, or enjoy a sweet treat with coffee after lunch.

All three of these restaurants are conveniently located along Dodecanese Boulevard (the main street at the Sponge Docks), making them very easy to walk to during your free time.

There are many other wonderful eateries along the docks, so feel free to explore — but you truly can't go wrong with any of these!

EMERGENCY CONTACT: If you haven't already, please designate a local emergency contact who can assist in the event of an unexpected situation. Additionally, be sure to save your Travel Guide's phone number in your cell phone before departure.

DEPARTURE TIME: The charter bus will leave promptly at the scheduled time from the Activity Center Parking Lot. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early to check in and find your seat.

IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE: Call or text your Travel Guide immediately using the number provided above. The bus cannot wait unless we are notified — we will have to leave without you.

BUS SEATING: First come, first serve. Want to sit near the front or with a friend? Arrive early and together. Your seat will remain the same for the entire trip. Front seat behind the stairs is reserved for the Travel Guide.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS: You may leave items (bags, coffee mugs, umbrellas, etc.) on the bus. The bus will be locked by the driver while we are away.

BUS RESTROOMS: Please use the restroom before arriving at the Activity Center. The building *may not* be open prior to departure. A restroom is available on the bus, but for emergencies only.

TIPPING: Gratuity for the Odyssey Cruises boat crew has already been included in your registration fee. If you enjoyed your trip, please consider leaving an additional tip for your motorcoach driver upon return.

TRIP PHOTOS WELCOME! 📷 We'd love to see your pictures! Send them to our marketing director, Lisa Malone, at lisa@citrushills.com — they may be featured on our social media pages!

Thank You for Traveling with Us!

I hope you had a wonderful time and enjoyed the experience as much as I enjoyed planning it for you. If you'd like to be among the first to hear about future travel opportunities, consider joining our exclusive Travel Club Email List. This list gives you early access to upcoming trip announcements, updates, and more.

To opt in, simply send me an email (emily@citrushills.com) letting me know you're interested, and I'll be happy to add you to the list! Safe travels and see you on the next adventure

— *Emily Will; Activities Director*